

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 049395771 US

Date of Deposit: February 26, 2002

Our Case No. 11471/3

Client Reference No. XP/02-058

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
David Joaquín Sandoval Moreno et al. )  
Serial No. Unknown ) Examiner: Unknown  
Filing Date: February 26, 2002 ) Group Art Unit No. Unknown  
For: SYSTEM FOR REMOTE )  
MANAGEMENT OF WATER )  
CONSUMPTION IN HOMES AND )  
INDUSTRIES )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**In The Title of the Invention**

This application claims priority to a Spanish application, with a Serial No. 200100449, filed on February 26, 2001, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**In the Claims**

Please cancel Claim 1 and add new Claims 2-12 as follows:

2. (New) A system for managing water consumption, the system comprising:
- at least one central data system operatively connected to at least one communication network;
  - at least one concentrator operatively connected to the central data system through the communication network; and
  - at least one control equipment operatively connected to the concentrator, wherein the control equipment includes an electrovalve capable of being opened and closed; and
    - the control equipment receives information related to the electrovalve being opened and closed, wherein the control equipment provides the information related to the electrovalve being opened and closed through the concentrator to the central data system.

3. (New) The system of Claim 2, wherein the concentrator further comprises a communication adapter that operatively connects the concentrator to the communication network.

4. (New) The system of Claim 2, wherein the control equipment is operatively connected to the concentrator by a communication cable.

5. (New) A control equipment comprising:

- a counter;
- an electrovalve operatively connected to the counter, wherein the electrovalve is capable of being opened or closed;
- a connection socket that is utilized as an entrance and exit for fluid flow, wherein the electrovalve is utilized to balance fluid flow through the connection socket; and
- a control card operatively connected to the counter, wherein the control card in conjunction with the counter assesses opening and closing of the electrovalve due to fluid flow through the connection socket.

6. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, wherein the counter is an electronic counter.

7. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, wherein the control card is an electronic control card.

8. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, further comprising a communication cable operatively connected to the control card.

9. (New) The control equipment of Claim 8, wherein the communication cable is operatively connected to a concentrator.

10. (New) A concentrator comprising:

a computer;

a first communication adapter operatively connected to the computer;

a second communication adapter operatively connected to the computer; and

the first communication adapter operatively connected to at least one communication cable, wherein the communication cable provides information related to an electrovalve capable of being opened and closed to the first communication adapter.

11. (New) The concentrator of Claim 10, wherein the second communication adapter is operatively connected to at least one central data system.

12. (New) The concentrator of Claim 11, wherein a communication network is utilized to operatively connect the second communication adapter to the central data system.

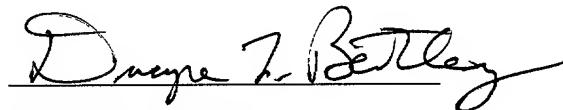
## REMARKS

Applicants have canceled Claim 1 and added new Claims 2-12. The specification supports the addition of the new claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the new claims.

Claim amendments are shown in attached Appendix A, with underlines for added matter. The original specification was not published in English. Applicants have provided an English translation of the specification along with a certified copy of the Spanish application with Serial No. 200100449, filed on February 26, 2001.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Dwayne L. Bentley

Registration No. 45,947

Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200

**APPENDIX A- Claims as Pending**

**Serial No. Unknown**

**SYSTEM FOR REMOTE MANAGEMENT OF WATER CONSUMPTION IN HOMES  
AND INDUSTRIES**

David Joaquin Sandoval Moreno et al.

**In the Claims**

Please cancel Claim 1 and add new Claims 2-12 as follows:

2. (New) A system for managing water consumption, the system comprising:

at least one central data system operatively connected to at least one communication network;

at least one concentrator operatively connected to the central data system through the communication network; and

at least one control equipment operatively connected to the concentrator, wherein the control equipment includes an electrovalve capable of being opened and closed; and

the control equipment receives information related to the electrovalve being opened and closed, wherein the control equipment provides the information related to the electrovalve being opened and closed through the concentrator to the central data system.

3. (New) The system of Claim 2, wherein the concentrator further comprises a communication adapter that operatively connects the concentrator to the communication network.

4. (New) The system of Claim 2, wherein the control equipment is operatively connected to the concentrator by a communication cable.

5. (New) A control equipment comprising:

a counter;

an electrovalve operatively connected to the counter, wherein the electrovalve is capable of being opened or closed;

a connection socket that is utilized as an entrance and exit for fluid flow, wherein

the electrovalve is utilized to balance fluid flow through the connection socket; and  
a control card operatively connected to the counter, wherein the control card in  
conjunction with the counter assesses opening and closing of the electrovalve due to fluid flow  
through the connection socket.

6. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, wherein the counter is an electronic counter.

7. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, wherein the control card is an electronic  
control card.

8. (New) The control equipment of Claim 5, further comprising a communication cable  
operatively connected to the control card.

9. (New) The control equipment of Claim 8, wherein the communication cable is  
operatively connected to a concentrator.

10. (New) A concentrator comprising:

a computer;  
a first communication adapter operatively connected to the computer;  
a second communication adapter operatively connected to the computer; and  
the first communication adapter operatively connected to at least one  
communication cable, wherein the communication cable provides information related to an  
electrovalve capable of being opened and closed to the first communication adapter.

11. (New) The concentrator of Claim 10, wherein the second communication adapter is  
operatively connected to at least one central data system.

12. (New) The concentrator of Claim 11, wherein a communication network is utilized to  
operatively connect the second communication adapter to the central data system.